AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5, as follows:

A specific example of the modified DNA can include a DNA hybridizing to the DNA having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions and encoding a protein having a transglutaminase activity. Note here that "stringent conditions" herein denote conditions where so-called specific hybrid is formed and non-specific hybrid is not formed. For example, stringent conditions includes conditions where incubation is carried out by using a hybridization solution (50% formaldehyde formamide, 10 SSC (0.15 M NaCl, 15 mM sodium citrate, pH 7.0), 5 × Denhardt solution, 1% SDS, 10% dextran sulfate, $10 \mu g/ml$ denatured salmon sperm DNA, and 50 mM phosphoric acid buffer (pH 7.5)) at 42°C, followed by washing with $0.1 \times SSC$ and 0.1% SDS at 68°C. Further preferable stringent conditions can include conditions where a hybridization solution (50% formaldehyde formamide, $5 \times SSC$ (0.15M NaCl, 15 mM sodium citrate, pH 7.0), 1 × Denhardt solution, 1% SDS, 10% dextran sulfate, $10 \mu g/ml$ denatured salmon sperm DNA, and 50 mM phosphoric acid buffer (pH 7.5)) is used.